

study of botany, with that energetic zeal which marks his character, and which induces him to labour, not for his own improvement only, but for the public good. One of the results of this tour has been the publication (at Vienna) of a 4to *brochure*, of 100 closely printed pages, under the title above given. Here are included a great number of most valuable observations on many new genera and species of *Leguminosæ*, chiefly from the Herbaria of Munich and Vienna, where the collections were (as elsewhere) thrown open to him with a liberality which has called forth his grateful acknowledgements. His work, we are happy to learn from the preface, now that Mr. Bentham is returned to London, is but the forerunner of a more extensive one on this extensive family of plants.

*The Natural Arrangement and Relations of the Family of Fly-Catchers or Muscipidæ.* By William Swainson, Esq.\*

This work, one of the cheap and beautifully illustrated volumes of Sir William Jardine's Naturalist's Library, well sustains the character of that popular series. Mr. Swainson's talent as a zoological writer appears to be peculiarly fitted for works of this description,—his slight sketches combine the beauty of a work of art, with the distinctness and accuracy so requisite in subjects connected with natural history. The text is an extension of the author's remarks on this family, originally published in the Ornithological volumes of Lardner's Encyclopædia, and contains much useful information, conveyed in an agreeable manner, and illustrated by thirty accurately coloured plates, beautifully engraved by Mr. Lizars. The work is published at such a moderate price as to place it within the reach of any person wishing to pursue the study of natural history, but who may hitherto have been prevented by the high price at which books on such subjects are usually brought out.

Much, however, as we are pleased with the general execution of this little volume, we cannot but regret that Mr. Swainson has not been more accurate in the orthography of the scientific names.

The same volume also contains an interesting memoir and plate of Baron Haller, the poet, the physiologist, and the naturalist.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

April 4.—A paper was read, entitled, "A Description of Viscount Cole's specimen of *Plesiosaurus macrocephalus* (Conybeare)," by

\* Jardine's Naturalist's Library: Lizars, Edinburgh; Highley, London.